

Missouri Department of Mental Health

Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Mark Stringer
Division Director

Use of Methamphetamines

Methamphetamine (Meth) is a Schedule II stimulant drug that is highly addictive and is only legally available by prescription in low doses to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, depression and narcolepsy¹. The Schedule II rating indicates that the drug has a high potential for abuse but has some therapeutic value. Meth is a white, odorless powder that can be dissolved easily in liquids but has a bitter taste. It can be snorted through the nose, injected with a needle, smoked or taken orally.

Health Hazards²:

- ❖ Potential exposure to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, TB with IV injection use
- ❖ Altered brain function affecting emotion and memory
- ❖ Chronic Use of Meth:
 - × Anxiety
 - × Confusion
 - × Mood Disturbances
 - × Insomnia
 - × Violent Behavior
 - × Paranoia
 - × Visual and/or Auditory Hallucinations
 - × Delusions
 - × Extreme Weight Loss
 - × Serious Dental Problems.

Environmental Hazards²:

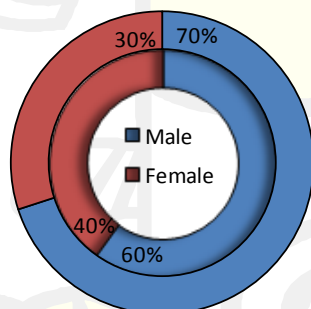
- ❖ Toxic chemicals that are corrosive or flammable
- ❖ Hazardous wastes produced by the "cooking" process
 - × Corrosive Liquids
 - × Acid Vapors
 - × Heavy Metals
 - × Solvents
- ❖ Approximately 6 lbs of waste produced for 1lb Meth
- ❖ Typically these wastes are dumped in rural parks or in rivers

Treatment in MO

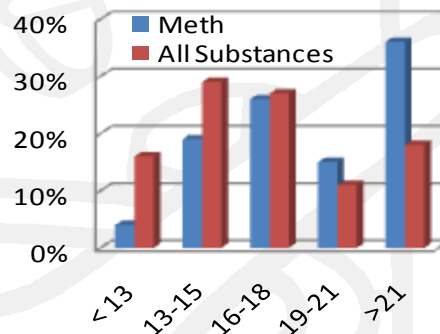
Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008³:

- ❖ 3,523 Admissions for Meth as Primary Drug
- ❖ 9% of total substance abuse admissions.
- ❖ 74% 18- 39 years old
- ❖ 97% Caucasian
- ❖ Referral Source
 - × 65% referred from criminal justice system
 - × 24% referred by family or self
- ❖ Frequency of Use at Admission:
 - × 19% Weekly use
 - × 11% Monthly use
 - × 9% Daily use

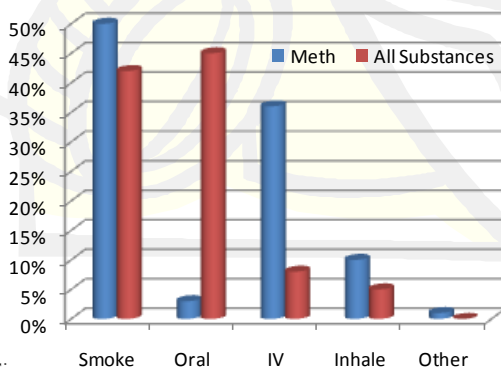
Gender
Outer Circle: All Substances
Inner Circle: Meth



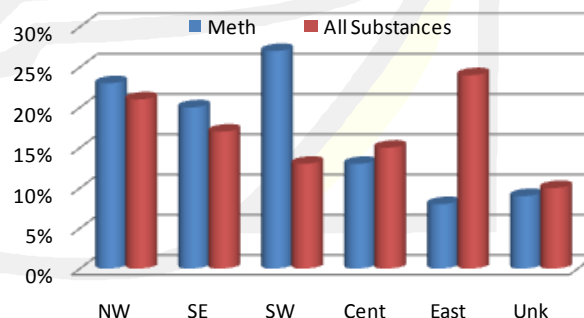
Age of First Use



Method of Use



Region of Residence



Sources:

1. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Alcohol & Drug Fact Sheets – Amphetamines. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/infacts/methamphetamine.html>
2. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Fact Sheet, <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/presrel/methfact01.html>
3. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, As reported from Consumer Information Management, Outcomes and Reporting System, 2008.